



## Decision Support Briefing for SnowEx (NASA) – 15 February, 2017

### Overview

High pressure will slowly start to break down tomorrow morning as the next system comes ashore over California. We won't notice much of a change though as clear skies and warm temperatures will continue to be the rule. Some thin, high clouds may move overhead in the late afternoon/early evening hours but, like Wednesday, won't pose any threat to flying conditions. As the next system approaches late Thursday night into Friday, clouds will thicken and start dropping. By daybreak Friday, cloud bases will be between 12 to 18K feet but by Friday evening bases will drop below 8K feet. Medium confidence on cloud heights this far out but the general gist of clouds thickening and dropping during the day Friday remains a solid forecast. A warm front will move over the sites early Saturday morning bringing some showery precip to both locations but nothing that should last too long. High, overcast clouds are anticipated with low to mid ceilings also possible through the weekend. There will likely be breaks in cloud cover but at this time, hard to nail down the specifics.

### National Weather Service Forecast for 10 Miles NNW Cedaredge CO (Grand Mesa at Mesa/Delta Co Line)

For the latest forecast, go to <http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?lat=39.027&lon=-108.02>

**Tonight:** Clear, with a low around 23. Northwest wind around 5 mph becoming east northeast in the evening.

**Thursday:** Sunny, with a high near 40. Southeast wind around 5 mph becoming south southwest in the afternoon.

**Thursday Night:** A 10 percent chance of snow showers after 11pm. Increasing clouds, with a low around 21. South wind around 5 mph.

**Friday:** Partly cloudy becoming mostly cloudy, with a high near 37. South wind around 5 mph.

**Friday Night:** Snow showers likely. Cloudy, with a low around 26. South wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

**Saturday:** A chance of snow showers before noon, then a slight chance of rain and snow showers between noon and 2pm, then a slight chance of snow showers after 2pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 35. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

**Saturday Night:** A 40 percent chance of snow showers, mainly before 11pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 27.

**Sunday:** A chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 35.

**Sunday Night:** Snow showers likely, mainly before 11pm. Cloudy, with a low around 26.  
**Washington's Birthday:** A slight chance of snow showers before 11am. Partly sunny, with a high near 35.  
**Monday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 27.  
**Tuesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 38.  
**Tuesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 27.  
**Wednesday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 39.

### **National Weather Service Forecast for 7 Miles ENE Ophir CO (Senator Beck)**

For the latest forecast, go to <http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?lat=37.905&lon=-107.72>

**Tonight:** Clear, with a low around 19. North wind around 10 mph.  
**Thursday:** Sunny, with a high near 38. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west in the afternoon.  
**Thursday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 17. West southwest wind 10 to 15 mph.  
**Friday:** A 40 percent chance of snow, mainly after 11am. Partly sunny, with a high near 31. West southwest wind 10 to 15 mph.  
**Friday Night:** Snow showers likely, mainly before 11pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 20. South southwest wind around 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%.  
**Saturday:** A 50 percent chance of snow showers. Areas of blowing snow after 11am. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 29.  
**Saturday Night:** A 40 percent chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 21.  
**Sunday:** Snow showers likely, mainly after 11am. Areas of blowing snow after 11am. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 29.  
**Sunday Night:** Snow showers likely. Patchy blowing snow. Cloudy, with a low around 20.  
**Washington's Birthday:** A chance of snow showers, mainly before 11am. Partly sunny, with a high near 29.  
**Monday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 20.  
**Tuesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 30.  
**Tuesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 23.  
**Wednesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 32. Breezy.

### **Aviation Forecast for Grand Junction Regional Airport**

KGJT 152320

TAFGJT

TAF

KGJT 152320Z 1600/1624 VRB03KT P6SM SKC

FM160800 11005KT P6SM SKC

FM161900 VRB05KT P6SM SKC=

**Aviation Forecast for Colorado Springs Airport**

KCOS 152320Z 1600/1624 16007KT P6SM FEW250

FM160200 36007KT P6SM FEW250

FM161700 16007KT P6SM SKC=

**Aviation Forecast for Centennial Airport**

KAPA 152331Z 1600/1624 02005KT P6SM SCT220

FM160200 18006KT P6SM FEW220

FM161900 25007KT P6SM FEW250

FM162300 34006KT P6SM FEW120 SCT250=

**Discussion**

Grand Mesa forecast cloud levels:

Thursday: Clear skies. A few high clouds in the late evening. No impacts to aviation.

Friday: SCT to BKN skies at 18K feet becoming BKN to OVC at 10 to 15K feet by noon. Remaining BKN to OVC at 6 to 8K feet by the evening.

Senator Beck forecast cloud levels:

Thursday: Clear skies. No impacts to aviation.

Friday: SCT skies at 18K feet becoming BKN to OVC at 12K feet by noon. OVC at 6 to 8K feet by mid-afternoon onwards.

Current PIREPs: <https://www.aviationweather.gov/airep/plot?type=turb&ion=SW>

Current SITREPs: <https://www.aviationweather.gov/sigmet>

Current radar:

<http://radar.weather.gov/radar.php?rid=GJX&product=NCR&overlay=11101111&loop=yes>

Current satellite: <http://www.weather.gov/satellite?image=ir#ir>

Hourly weather graphics for the Grand Mesa:

<http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?lat=39.0326&lon=-108.0245&unit=0&lg=english&FcstType=graphical>

Hourly weather graphics for Senator Beck:

<http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?lat=37.9247&lon=-107.7179&unit=0&lg=english&FcstType=graphical>

For official pilot briefings, call 1-800-WX-BRIEF

### **For Further Information**

- Contact National Weather Service operations 24 hours a day at 970-256-9463 (unlisted)
- For specific support of emergency response incidents, request a spot forecast by contacting the NWS forecast office by phone or online.
- Online spot forecast request available at:  
<http://www.weather.gov/spot/monitor/?lat=39.0293452169889&lon=-109.20392753906285&z=7>

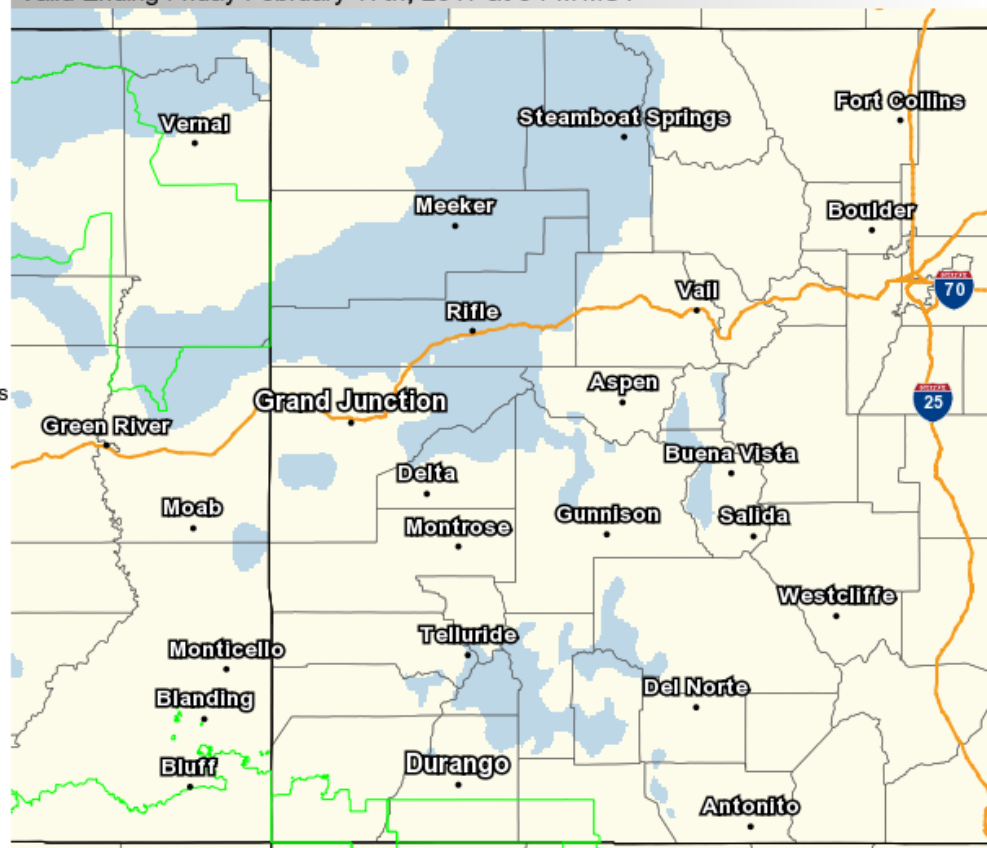
Forecaster: Thomas Renwick

# Forecast Snowfall

National Weather Service

Valid Ending Friday February 17th, 2017 at 5 PM MST

- Less than an inch
- 1 to 2 inches
- 2 to 3 inches
- 3 to 4 inches
- 4 to 6 inches
- 6 to 8 inches
- 8 to 12 inches
- 12 to 18 inches
- 18 to 24 inches
- 24 to 30 inches
- 30 to 36 inches
- Greater than 36 inches



Graphic Created  
February 15th, 2017  
4:45 PM MST